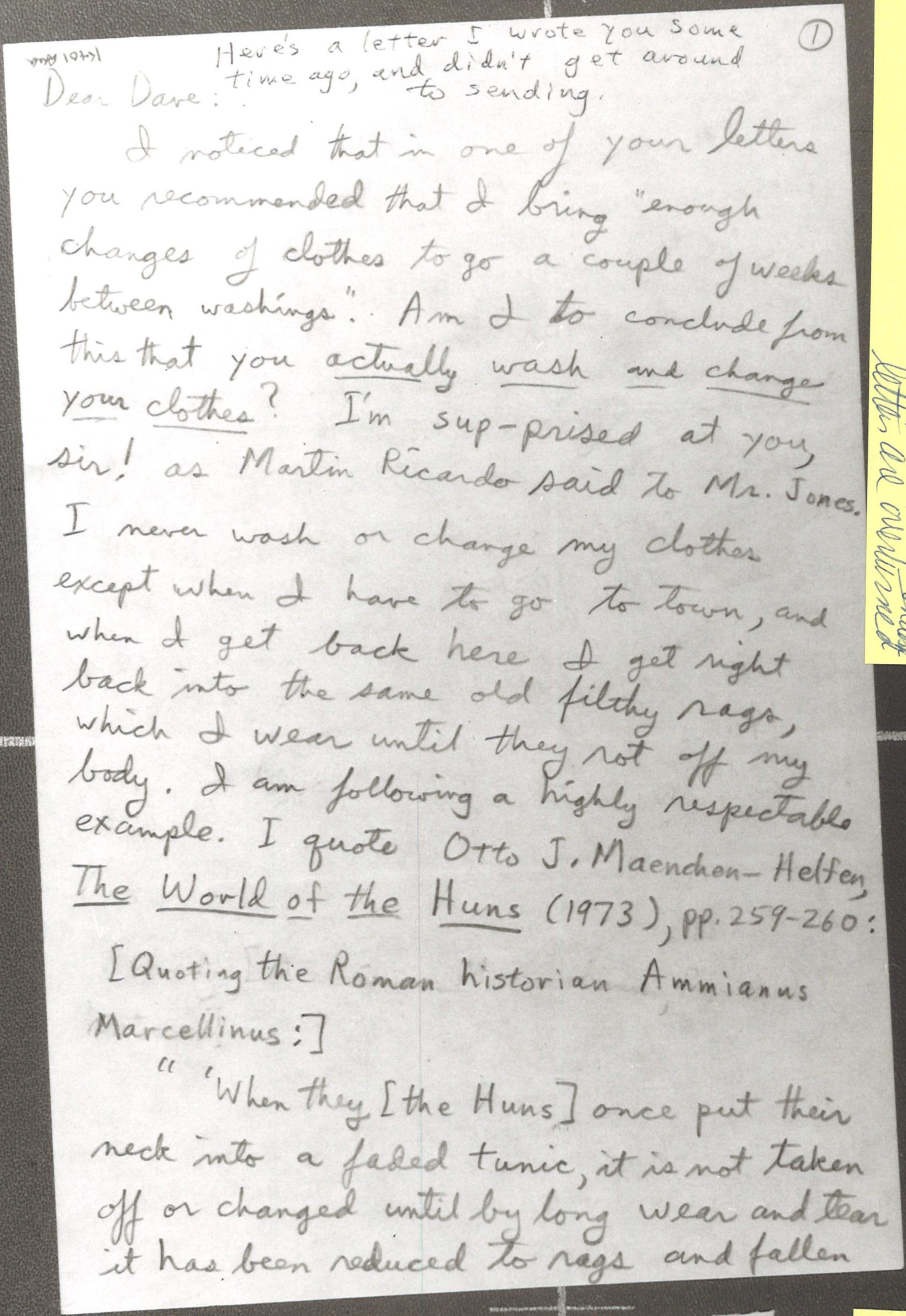
T-18

Jim Fitzgerald's
room
letters completed

80 extn
room
on R hand
side
before file cabinet not on desk
letters are overturned



[illegible]

Dear Dave: Here's a letter I wrote you some time ago, and didn't get around to sending.

①

I noticed that in one of your letters you recommended that I bring "enough changes of clothes to go a couple of weeks between washings". Am I to conclude from this that you actually wash and change your clothes? I'm sup-prised at you, sir! as Martin Ricardo said to Mr. Jones. I never wash or change my clothes except when I have to go to town, and when I get back here I get right back into the same old filthy rags, which I wear until they rot off my body. I am following a highly respectable example. I quote Otto J. Maenchen-Helfen, The World of the Huns (1973), pp. 259-260:

[Quoting the Roman historian Ammianus Marcellinus:]

" 'When they [the Huns] once put their neck into a faded tunic, it is not taken off or changed until by long wear and tear it has been reduced to rags and fallen

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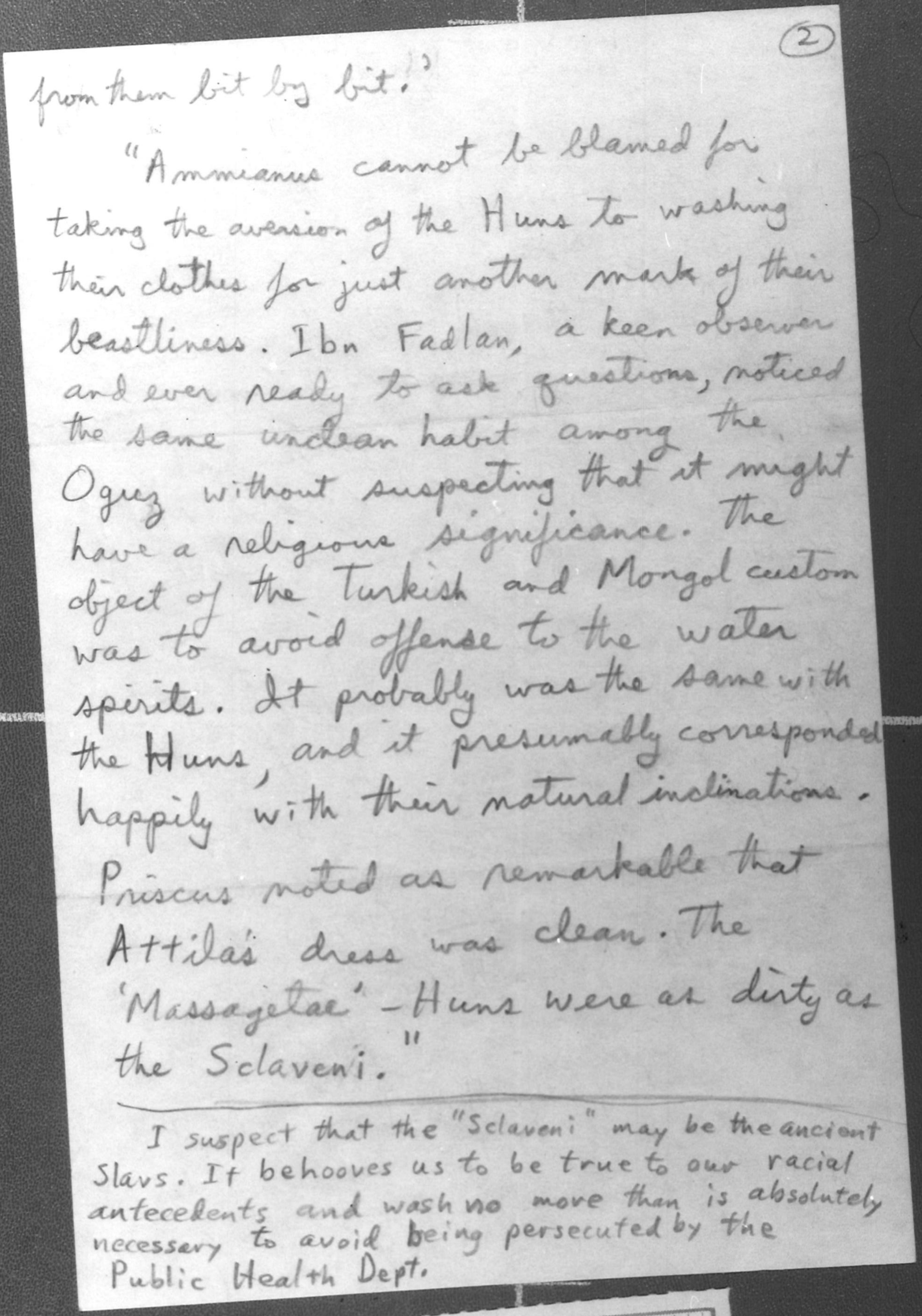
Completed
4/15/96
A.H



from them bit by bit."

"Ammianus cannot be blamed for taking the aversion of the Huns to washing their clothes for just another mark of their beastliness. Ibn Fadlan, a keen observer and ever ready to ask questions, noticed the same unclean habit among the Oguz without suspecting that it might have a religious significance. The object of the Turkish and Mongol custom was to avoid offense to the water spirits. It probably was the same with the Huns, and it presumably corresponded happily with their natural inclinations. Priscus noted as remarkable that Attila's dress was clean. The 'Massagetae'-Huns were as dirty as the Sclaveni."

I suspect that the "Sclaveni" may be the ancient Slavs. It behooves us to be true to our racial antecedents and wash no more than is absolutely necessary to avoid being persecuted by the Public Health Dept.

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